

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01299 241751Z

72

ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW,

SUBJECT: EC VOCATIONAL CENTER IN BERLIN

REF: STATE 15374

1. HEAVY PRESS PLAY FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT REF-TEL) OF EC APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBJECT CENTER IN BERLIN HAS INDICATED A VERY WIDE DEGREE OF POLITICAL AND MEDIA SUPPORT IN THE FRG. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER IN PARTICULAR, ARE BEING GIVEN SUBSTANTIAL CREDIT FOR BRINGING ABOUT THE BRUSSELS DECISION.

2. FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG (INDEP.) CALLS THE EC DECISION A "FLASH OF LIGHT" AMID THE PROBLEMS NOW FACING THE EC AND LAUDS THOSE COUNTRIES WHO WITHDREW THEIR BIDS TO HAVE THE CENTER IN FAVOR OF BERLIN. SUD-DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG (INDEP.) SAYS THE EC MINISTERIAL COUNCIL'S DECISION WAS TAKEN AT THE SUGGESTION OF GENSCHER. OTHER PAPERS CREDIT GENSCHER FOR THROWING HIS WEIGHT INTO THE POLITICAL SCALES WITH HIS EC PARTNERS, AS WELL AS SEEMINGLY HAVING PERSUADED HIS US, BRITISH, AND FRENCH COLLEAGUES AT THE NATO QUADRIPARTITE

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PAGE 02 BONN 01299 241751Z

DINNER THAT THE PROJECT IS IN HARMONY WITH THE QA.

3. DIE WELT (RIGHT-CENTER) GIVES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CREDIT FOR THE BRUSSELS DECISION AND NOTES IT IS EC'S FIRST OFFICE ON GERMAN SOIL. FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU (LEFT-CENTER) NOTES THAT THE IDEA OF KEEPING BERLIN VIABLE WITH INJECTIONS NOT ONLY FROM BONN BUT FROM BRUSSELS IS NOT NEW BUT ALWAYS BOGGED DOWN BEFORE. NOTING THAT THE CENTER IS NOT AN AGENCY, BUT AN INSTITUTION, AND THAT THE EAST DOES NOT CHALLENGE WEST BERLIN'S BEING AN ECONOMIC PART OF THE FRG'S ECONOMY, RUNDSCHAU SAYS THE EC DECISION IS, HOWEVER, A TEST OF SOVIET AND GDR REACTION.
HILLENBRAND

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